

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KHARTO 01084 151048Z

46

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EUR-12 MC-02 ACDA-07 AID-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /089 W

----- 077016

R 151010Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1517

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 1084

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ET, SU

SUBJECT: NIMEIRI COMMENTS ON SUDANESE/ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS
AND ERITREAN PROBLEM

1. PRESIDENT NIMEIRI REVIEWED FOR ME APRIL 14 HIS VERSION OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN GOS/EPMG RELATIONS, INCLUDING HIS ERITREAN MEDIATION INITIATIVE. ETHIOPIANS HAD INITIALLY BEEN UNENTHUSASTIC. FOR THEIR PART, ERITREANS HAD REQUIRED CONSIDERABLE NURSING. MATTERS HAD NEVERTHELESS BEGUN TO MOVE FORWARD BY THE END OF 1975. HOWEVER, ETHIOPIAN OVERFLIGHTS SUDAN IN JANUARY HAD THEN CAUSED GOS TO SUSPEND ITS EFFORTS. SUDANESE/ETHIOPIAN CONTACTS SINCE EARLY MARCH HAD SERVED CLEAR THAT AIR AND FONMIN KIFLE HAD VISITED HIM AND "APOLOGIZED". GOS HAD MEANWHILE "INVITED" ISAIAS AFEWORK AND OTHER ERITREAN LEADERS TO COME TO KHARTOUM TO TRY TO COMPOSE THEIR DIFFERENCES. UNFORTUNATELY, THAT MEETING HAD FAILED.

2. NIMEIRI CONTINUED THAT SUDDEN DEATH OF SENIOR SUDANESE OFFICIAL HANDLING THIS QUESTION (JAAFAR BAKHEIT) HAD NOT HELPED. HE HIMSELF HAD ACCORDINGLY HAD TO BECOME DIRECTLY INVOLVED AND HAD MET WITH UNSPECIFIED ERITREANS WHILE THEY WERE IN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KHARTO 01084 151048Z

KHARTOUM. HE NOW EXPECTED TURN RESPONSIBILITY OVER SHORTLY

TO VICE PRESIDENT BAGHIR. SUDANESE WOULD CONTINUE TO TRY TO BE HELPFUL BUT EARLY PROGRESS WAS HARD TO PREDICT. ERITREANS WERE FRAGMENTED ALONG RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL LINES ("THERE ARE EVEN SYRIAN BAATHIST ERITREANS AND IRAQI BAATHIST ONES"). SOME ARE COMMUNISTS, INCLUDING A FEW WHO ARE MEMBERS OF SUDANESE COMMUNIST PARTY.

3. NIMEIRI ALSO SPOKE OF MILITARY CAPABILITIES OF ERITREANS. HE SAID THEY HAD RECEIVED ARMS FROM SYRIANS, IRAQIS, RUSSIANS AND OTHERS AND HE THOUGHT EVEN HAD SMALL GROUND-TO-AIR MISSILES. HE DID NOT SEE HOW EITHER SIDE COULD WIN MILITARILY. BREWER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, AIRSPACE VIOLATIONS, BORDER INCIDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976KHARTO01084
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760143-0860
From: KHARTOUM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760458/aaaabxjo.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NIMEIRI COMMENTS ON SUDANESE/ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS AND ERITREAN PROBLEM
TAGS: PFOR, ET, SU, (KIFLE WODAJJO), (NIMEIRI, JAFAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006